

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. ATT-017PUS (ATT/2000-0074)

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated or made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIM 1, 4-9 AND 23-26 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-9, and 23-26 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Gerstel et al. (US Patent 5,867,289). Claims 1, 4-9, and 23-26 have been canceled without prejudice. The rejection is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the rights to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these canceled claims.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 8-10, AND 21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 8-10, and 21 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Schroeder et al. (US Patent 6,198,856).

Claims 1-2, 8-10, and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. The rejection is now moot. However, Applicants reserve the rights to file one or more continuation applications to continue prosecution of these canceled claims.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner objected to claims 3 and 22 for depending upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 3 and 22 into independent claim form and have also addressed the objection to the base claims 1 and 9. Applicants submit that claims 3 and 22 are now in allowable form.

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Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the present final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

9/3/04



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